NEW ORLEANS:

Sleight of Hand

From the start, Jim Garrison's assassination investigation had the look of a remarkable improvisation, a helter-skelter house of canards teetering and tottering on the verge of collapse (NEWSWEEK, May 15). But last week, just as his "plot" story seemed about to fall of its own improbable weight, the New Orleans district attorney propped it up with characteristically flamboyant sleight of hand. Garrison extended his "investigation" to the FBI and the CIA, charging them with deliberately holding out evidence about the murder of President Kennedy.

First the D.A. summoned FBI agent Regis Kennedy for a grand jury appearance, ostensibly to tell of the post-assassination investigation he conducted in New Orleans in 1963. Later Garrison obtained a subpoena ordering CIA director

Associated Press

Beaubouef: His story stood

Newsweek, May 22, 1967

'You Say You Got This From A Mister Jim Garrison?'

Herblock, © 1967 The Washington Post

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Richard Helms to produce a photo establishing—according to Garrison—that Lee Harvey Oswald was working for the CIA a few days before the assassination.

Jim Garrison's new moves produced the intended result—publicity—and nothing else. Predictably, FBI man Kennedy refused to testify on Washington's orders under a Supreme Court-validated departmental rule prohibiting grand jury appearances by agents. And there was no sign that the CIA intended suddenly to come up with any photograph tailored to Garrison's needs. Sniffed Garrison: the Federal agencies were, in effect, "taking the Fifth Amendment."

Truth Money: Last week Garrison also released a document tacitly confirming that one of his investigators had offered money and employment to Alvin Beaubouef to get him to provide testimony confirming Garrison's assassination conspiracy theory. The document was an affidavit in which Beaubouef denied that the offer was intended to bribe him to lie. Garrison said the investigator had offered money to Beaubouef only to induce him to "tell the truth." Later, however, Beaubouef's lawyer announced his client "confirms in all details" last week's NEWSWEEK report that the offer of money had been "a bribery attempt."

Neither this nor the unwillingness of the FBI and CIA to be drawn into Jim Garrison's charade appeared to dismay the district attorney, however. "This isn't going to stop our investigation," he said. "There's no way in the world they can stop it. All they can do is slow it down."